

REMARKS

Claims 1-31, 36, 41, and 46-57 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 16 and 24 are amended to distinguish over the applied references and claims 46-57, formerly claims 32-35, 37-40 and 42-45, are reinstated. In addition, claims 2, 17 and 25 are amended to be consistent with the amended independent claims. The reinstated claims do not correspond to the elected species. However, upon allowance of generic claims 1, 16 and 24, rejoinder is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 10-17, 20-25, 28-31, 36 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,937,673 to Saito et al. (hereinafter "Saito") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,660,102 to Kawakami et al. (hereinafter Kawakami). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of applied references fails to suggest or disclose information input apparatus comprising at least the features of an imaging device that forms digital images of a subject, a sound recording device that records sounds in a state of recording mode, a storage medium that stores at least one of the digital images formed by the imaging device and the sounds input by the sound recording device, a release switch that initiates a process of forming the digital images by the imaging device, a sound effect output device that outputs a preset sound effect when the release switch is operated and a control device that connects to the sound recording device, the storage medium and the sound effect output device, wherein while in the recording mode, the control device controls the sound effect output device to prevent outputting of the preset sound effect when the release switch initiates the process of forming the digital images, as recited in amended claim 1, and similarly recited in amended claims 16 and 24.

Saito teaches a combination video and still picture camera unit which is provided with a mechanism which prevents film wind and rewind operations during movie picture shooting

so as to prevent the noise due to the film wind or rewind operation from being recorded by the video camera unit.

Kawakami teaches an electronic still camera which is capable of editing pictures recorded on the storage medium of the camera. When the shutter release button of the camera is actuated, and in order to clearly notify the recording operation to the operator, a tone generating device such as a piezoelectric device may be arranged so that a pseudo shutter sound is produced when the recording operation on the magnetic disk is initiated. However, because the device of Kawakami is only a digital still camera it is not capable of recording audio signals.

Thus, Saito teaches a combination still and video recording device which disables the film and rewind operations during video recording to prevent recording of the sound caused by rewinding. Saito teaches a digital still camera which emits a pseudo shutter sound when a still image is recorded. However, neither reference suggests or discloses disabling the sound associated with digital still image capture while the apparatus is recording video and audio signals, in a device which is capable of video and still image capturing. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 1, 16 and 24 are patentable over the combination of applied references. Claims 2-4, 10-15, 17, 20-23, 25, 28-31, 36 and 41 are also patentable over the combination of applied references for at least the same reasons as independent claims 1, 16 and 24. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-4, 10-17, 20-25, 28-31, 36 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 5-9, 18, 19, 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Saito and Kawakami as applied to the independent claims and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,576,758 to Arai et al. (hereinafter "Arai"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that Arai fails to supply the deficiencies of Saito and Kawakami with respect to independent claims 1, 16 and 24 as discussed above. Therefore, claims 5-9, 18, 19, 26 and 27 are patentable over the combination of applied references for at least the same reasons as claims 1, 16 and 24. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 5-9, 18, 19, 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited. Rejoinder and allowance of non-elected claims 46-57 are also earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Request for Continued Examination

Date: June 12, 2003

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